

York Castle Museum



Raindale Mill at York Castle Museum

What will you be doing?

You will be helping us to open up an historic water mill for the public to enjoy. You will run the mill mechanism whilst chatting to visitors about the history of the mill and milling in the region.

What will you gain from volunteering here?

Meet people

Not only will you chat to the public but you will join a team of volunteers, get to know museum staff, and will have access to a range of volunteer events.

Learning something new

With specific training you will learn about the history of the mill and how to run it safely.

Helping others

You will help visitors to engage with history and give them a great visitor experience.

Get Active

Visit the Mill and the gardens regularly to enjoy this hidden space of history and tranquillity.

Who are we looking for?

You do not need to know anything about the collections. If you are over 18, are available for a minimum of 3 hours a week, plus an initial training session, and can say yes to the following questions:

- I am friendly and enthusiastic and like talking to people
- I want to learn more about history and tell visitors about the collections
- I enjoy being part of a team

Then do [apply online](#).

When can you volunteer?

We have sessions from 11:00am until 2:00pm every day of the week and you choose sessions to suit your own schedule.

Who can you talk to about volunteering?

You can either apply online or if you have a specific question you can email the Volunteers Coordinator at:

philip.newton@ymt.org.uk

York Museums Trust was formed on August 1 2002, as an independent charitable trust to manage the museums and gallery service previously run by City of York Council. Supported by the Council, York Museums Trust is responsible for York Art Gallery, York Castle Museum, Yorkshire Museum and Gardens and York St Mary's

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Further information

Background

Raindale Watermill stood at the foot of the secluded Raindale Valley on the North Yorkshire moors. Originally built as a cottage, the waterwheel and mechanism were added around 1800, and like many mills in North Yorkshire, it then provided for purely small scale local needs, grinding wheat into flour for human consumption, and oats and barley into meal to feed livestock.



The mill became redundant in 1915 and in 1935 it was offered to York Castle Museum. The mill was carefully taken apart and reconstructed on its present site, behind the museum on the banks of the River Foss, opening to the public for the first time in 1966.

In 2011 we restored the waterwheel and mill mechanism to working order again and the outside area around the mill has undergone extensive landscaping and improvement. The mechanism operates with the grinding stones disengaged but the waterwheel turns, fed by a pond which draws water from the river.

The volunteer role involves meeting and greeting the visitors, showing them around and explaining how the mill worked, what its origins are and how it came to be at the Castle Museum. We have a small set of demonstration quern stones for visitors to have a go at grinding corn for themselves.



Training

You will be given training on customer care followed by one to one training in the Mill with our volunteers training assistant and buddy sessions with experienced volunteers.

Time Commitment

We can have up to two volunteers for each session. There one session a day from 11:00 – 14:00 every day. We usually asked for a minimum of one session a fortnight.

Other essential information

As a charity, we do not have a budget for expenses, so unfortunately we are unable to reimburse travel or subsistence costs incurred by volunteers in the course of their day to day volunteering.

We do not have a uniform but we do ask you to wear smart-casual clothing with no large logo's or heavy patterns. Fleeeces are provided but as it is outside the main building, warm clothing is advised. You will be given an ID badge which you must wear when inside the building.

